

Amendments to the Abstract:

In the Specification, please add the abstract at page 8 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT

Incoming packets are aggregated into optical bursts in an edge node of an Optical Burst Switched Network by the following. Storing the incoming packets to generate an optical burst. Associating each incoming packets with a generated random binary digit with a probability for a first and a second value of the binary digit. A packet with a binary digit having the first value indicates a transition between optical bursts. Sending the optical burst with the aggregated packets when a transition is indicated by the first value.--